

0895. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen.

Salzb., 3rd Nove.,
1785.

Little Leopoldl² is well!

On Saturday, when the messenger collected the letter, we had already noticed that Leopoldl was not completely well. [5] This manifested itself afterwards as shooting pains in the chest, and the child has always had problems with phlegm anyway. On St. Wolfgang's Day, at 8 o'clock in the morning, after eating his semolina, such shooting pains started all at once that when I ran to the child following the piteous cry of the servants, I found the child with swollen face and eyes, blue, [10] asphyxiated like a hanged man and without the least signs of life. I opened his mouth using great force and blew into it until he began to open his eyes and draw breath; in addition, Tresel³ was already in position to blow into his rear end. Then I did not allow the child to take anything the whole day except thin tea with a little *manna*⁴ in it; [15] moreover, because he was enjoying drinking, I let him drink a great deal indeed in order to thin the phlegm in the breast and stomach. In the evening I gave him a number of spoonfuls of white-bread soup, and in this manner etc. he continued to improve, for he has breast catarrh and an accumulation of phlegm. The worst thing is that he does not want to eat the white-bread soup; that is always where we have the greatest problem with him, [20] and the semolina obviously causes more and more phlegm, while he is furthermore no lightweight, and I know that fat children are always more exposed to danger than the lean; but it really is as if he had been turned on a lathe and is as round as a ball when one sees him naked.

It was just after our meal today that the answer came from Schmid the organ builder;⁵ [25] he faithfully copied everything that I wrote out for him: that he is prepared to come if he can enjoy the same employment as Egedacher⁶ had etc. etc. I immediately took the letter to the Privy Chancellery⁷ so that it reaches Lauffen⁸ tomorrow.

Last Saturday they noticed that old Herr Hagenauer had suffered an apoplexy due to phlegm. [30] The left side his mouth was twisted, and he could not maintain the flow of his speech. They let a lot of blood on his leg, – since that time, he has had to take a lot of powder and then a mixture every 3 hours to get rid of the phlegm: now it has improved. This man, who is full of phlegm, has never wanted to take anything.

[35] On the same Saturday, I went for a walk out along the river at quarter past one, and so on until quarter past 2, arriving at Perheim⁹ for the first time in my life: the church was closed, so I went to the worthy parish priest, who then led me into the church, – then I stayed

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as “Frau Tochter” [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as “Herr Sohn” [esteemed son].

² BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather's death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September.

³ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴ BD: A sugar-like plant-based substance.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0871/64.

⁶ BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher († 14th June, 1785), the Royal Organ Builder and therefore also responsible for tuning and maintenance of the keyboard instruments.

⁷ “geheimme Kanzley”.

⁸ BD: The Archbishop has been in Lauffen, 20 km north-west of Salzburg, for some days now, cf. No. 0892/68, 132.

⁹ BD: Bergheim, formerly Bergham, on the Salzach north-west of Salzburg.

with him until 4 o'clock; and just as I wanted to leave, esteemed Bishop *Salm*¹⁰ and Count *Strasoldo*¹¹ came, [40] so I stayed on until half past 4, and was then at home at quarter past 5, saw what the child was doing, went to Hagenauer's at 6 o'clock because of the child's nightcap, which we had sent to Halla,¹² and came right in the middle of the health turbulence.

Last Sunday, the esteemed *Legal Officer*¹³ to the Cathedral Chapter and his wife were at the *theatre*, – [45] but they were a long way away from me and sat right at the bottom towards the *Royal Box*, although there was room up where we were. Everything remains quiet – only I hear that the *questioning* is still continuing, and that he only needs to appear whenever he is called. In the end, the aim is to put together something significant about the Bishop in Chiemsee¹⁴ from all the statements. [50] The esteemed Court Chancellor¹⁵ is ill. His illness, which he otherwise only had 2 or 3 times a year, now comes every month; there is doubt about whether he will hold out all that long, since it is like a podagra encroaching into the stomach.

I still have not heard a word from your brother, his last letter was dated 14th *September*, and since then the quartets were said to be coming with each post-coach. [55] If he were ill, Herr *Artaria* would have written about it in his letter of the 28th *October*. The esteemed writer of the newspaper¹⁶ had this to say when he met me some days ago: It is indeed astonishing what a quantity of things your esteemed son is now publishing: in all the musical advertisements I read nothing except Mozart all the time.¹⁷ The advertisements in *Berlin*¹⁸ add only the following words to the advertisement for the *quartets*: [60] It is not necessary to praise these *quartets* to the public: it suffices for us to say: they are by Herr *Mozart*. I could not give him any answer except that I know nothing, since this is already the 6th week I have gone without an answer from him. He also said something about a new *opera*. *Basta!*¹⁹ We will no doubt hear of it!

As you will have gathered from the Salzburg newspaper, which is significant, the exchange with Bavaria will by all appearances be enacted;²⁰ [65] it is correct that the Emperor²¹ has left under the pretext of hunting, but whether it is true that he is going to meet the Duke of Zweybrücken²² in some neutral place will soon become clear. It is also certainly true that the Duke²³ has left, and for a week now the story has been that he has gone to Vienna.

¹⁰ BD: Franz Xaver, Count [Altgraf – a title unique to the Salm family] Salm-Reifferscheid (1749-1822), Cardinal, from 1783-1822 Prince-Bishop of Gurk, Imperial Prince [Reichsfürst].

¹¹ “Graf”. BD: Joseph Philipp Adam, Count [Graf] Strassoldo (* 1738), member of the Cathedral chapter.

¹² BD: Dialect form of “Hallein”, a town about 15 km south of Salzburg.

¹³ “CapitlSyndicus”.

¹⁴ BD: Fürst in Chiemsee: BD: Ferdinand Christoph, Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil (1719-1786), cathedral canon in Salzburg.

¹⁵ “Hofkanzler”. BD: Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), director of the geheime Kanzlei / Privy Chancellery; from 1774 Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler], a position between the President and Director. Member of the eclectic lodge “Zur Fürsicht” [“Under the sign of Providence”] in Salzburg.

¹⁶ BD: Lorenz Hübner (1753-1807), for a short time a Jesuit, then a grammar school teacher; called to Salzburg to take over and improve the *Salzburger Staatszeitung* [Salzburg State Newspaper].

¹⁷ BD VI, p. 250 lists the symphonies, quartets, piano concertos, cantata, piano fantasy and sonata, piano variations and piano quartet published by Mozart in 1785.

¹⁸ BD: Not Berlin, but Vienna, e.g. *Wiener Zeitung* of 15th September, 1785.

¹⁹ = “Enough!”

²⁰ BD: Cf. Note on No. 0847/79 ff. It had been suggested that the Emperor and the Elector of Bavaria could exchange territories in Bavaria and the Netherlands.

²¹ “Kayser”. BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia.

²² “Herzog von Zweybrücken”. BD: Karl (II) August von Pfalz-Zweibrücken (1775-1793), a relative of the Elector of Bavaria.

²³ “Herzog”. BD: Prince William of Nassau-Orange (1748-1805), hereditary governor of the Netherlands.

[70] I think the matter is now clear. Back then, when the Emperor visited the King in Prussia,²⁴ it was only done to mislead him so that he was less struck by the fact that the Emperor then went on to meet the Russian Empress.²⁵ At that stage the project had already been concocted. At great expense, the Emperor ordered his *army* to *march* to the Turkish borders, – [75] stood on sentry duty – so that Russia received the Crimea etc. without striking a blow. Then the Emperor caused his demands for a boundary settlement with the Turks to be pursued with firmness, and beforehand attempted, with the help of France, to confuse and weaken the Dutch, who wasted millions to no purpose: the nation was divided into 2 parts. [80] The governor,²⁶ who, along with his supporters, had been incited against the Emperor by Prussia, was mistreated. The French part gained supremacy, made peace, offered on its own initiative to pay some further millions on behalf of Holland because they wanted to make haste in concluding the deal. The next thing will now be fencing with feathers to prove that Bavaria can make exchanges as she pleases, [85] and that it therefore only depends on the wishes of the Duke²⁷ von Zweybrücken. If it is true about the meeting, it will certainly happen. Now it is Russia's turn to stand on sentry duty. Since France also has its share in the exchange, it is impossible to see how the King in Prussia can impose himself on Russia, on the Emperor, and on France. [90] Saxony will think very carefully before exposing itself to such danger. – My opinion as to what significance this exchange could and will have for Salzburg will have to follow soon, since the messenger is just arriving.

The 4th Nov. – My thanks for the 4 fish and shrimps. I will answer all the points in your letter. [95] That you are astonished that there is always something wrong with a small child is the natural proof that you were never around children in diapers and were never around small children at all. After the 6 weeks, the first childhood illnesses begin, and I have often wished that you were present to realise the trouble that has be taken with such children. Here one has to leave everything to God, and otherwise do one's duty as a good Christian. – [100] Rensi's daughter-in-law²⁸ will not take her money to Austria: – will only live there. The esteemed Senior Court Clerk²⁹ has furthermore brought too many public house newspapers with him and sounded the trumpet too loudly. Nor will or should anyone feel *embarrassed* about going to the theatre, this is all buffoonery: People do not go more often than they can anyway, and it will become empty enough the longer it goes on. [105] The *balls*: the city council's 10 years are up.³⁰ Now they can give them without the annual *obligation* of the 500 florins. But Weitzhofer³¹ is also willing to take it over, and the city council is also willing to let him come if he will play 20 florins for each *ball* for the room and furniture etc., and I find that fair; this seems too much to Waitzhofer; – [110] let us wait and see what happens, since he is already speaking of 12 or 14 *balls* – so that he can be all the more sure of making a loss. – Now I come to the circumstances of your pressure and shooting pains, and the hot flushes. The hot flushes which rise up in you during the night, and the anxiety on waking up and

²⁴ “König in Preussen”. BD: Frederick II (“the Great”) (1712-1786), r. 1740-1786.

²⁵ “mit der Russischen Kayserin”. BD: Catharine II (the Great).

²⁶ BD: Prince William of Nassau-Orange (1748-1805), hereditary governor of the Netherlands.

²⁷ BD: Maria Josepha Julie, nee Agliardi (* 1737), was married to Administrator Steuer in Ebelsberg near Linz, a friend of Mozart's. After his death, the daughter took over his duties and married the son of the widowed Frau Rensi. Cf. No. 0892/37.

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²⁹ “Herr Oberschreiber”. BD: Franz Anton Maximilian von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, one of the younger brothers of Leopold's son-in-law and also a witness at Nannerl's wedding. A high administrative official.

³⁰ BD: After the city council had renewed the ballroom at the order of the Archbishop, they usually organised a weekly ball there during Carnival (amounting to 7 or 8 balls) and in return for the privilege were required to pay 500 florins into the theatre funds every year for 10 years.

³¹ BD: From the end of Lent to the end of May, Romanus Waizhofer's theatre ensemble had performed in Salzburg.

during breakfast seem to me and to Frau Hagenauer³² to be clear signs of the ordinary post³³ being held back, [115] since it has appeared again for the 9th day, so consequently it is clearly being held back: in this case there will be no other remedy than to have around 4 ounces of blood let from the arm. The camomile is not to be used much in such a case, it has too much heat on it, – perhaps you have taken too much of it. The women say that such rising of the womb only happens at times when one is angry, [120] or in other such cases, and during pressure on the uvula, and accompanied more by cold shivers than by heat as an alteration, and this is what you can try: If one scrapes only a little knifepoint's worth off a castoreum and puts it in as much hot meat broth as fills 2 little coffee-bowls, leaves it standing by the heat for a while, [125] and then drinks some of it when this spasm comes, this way the pressure will be relieved if it is a condition of the womb. It may be that the held-back blood and an irritation of this kind from a rising womb are occurring together because the latter is a result of the former. So you could drink just a little broth before breakfast when you get up: if it comes from the womb, [130] it will be relieved and go away. – if not, it comes from the fullness of the blood. One should not rush anything. Heat comes from the blood. – – How is it then during the day? – – Exercise, specifically in the open air, is one of the main things, especially since we are accustomed to it. I wanted to have rough laced shoes made for me by a peasant shoemaker, like the ones the farmers' maids wear, [135] to be put on and broad enough for walking in mud, then one takes them off again. Health is the highest priority! In the meantime I will also speak to Joseph von *Barisani*,³⁴ whom I did not find at home today; and if I should in the meantime find out a way to get information out to you, I shall certainly not be remiss in doing so. [140] You must accordingly take the camomile either very rarely or no more at all; but instead one takes fleabane, cut up small and mixed in the tea, which gets the blood moving. – In short! I will speak with *Barisani* and certainly attempt to get a letter out to you. It is still going not badly for the actors: but with bad weather it will soon dwindle, [145] and there have also already been some disputes among them. – – Did I already write saying that the big Capellhaus³⁵ boy Gerl³⁶ has also travelled up to Schmid in Erlang[en] as a *bass*? – – the fact that Preyman³⁷ went to court for 8 or 10 florins is not because he is a bad student, but precisely because he is an outstanding student, [150] and now has to consume all his time *teaching* in order to be able to live and consequently can neither learn nor *practice*; but this way he would have a certain amount of money for food, experience in music in the evenings and the rest of the time to learn and practice for himself, and then after a couple of years, *addio*! Now good night, it is half past 11, I am going to bed, must get up tomorrow because the messenger is coming, and then I will put everything together. [155] I kiss my esteemed son³⁸ and yourself from the heart, send greetings to the children and am your sincere

³² BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer, wife of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer, sometime landlord to the Mozart family.

³³ BD: Literally the routine post deliveries; here a metaphor for menstrual periods.

³⁴ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

³⁵ Salzburgwiki: Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school training young people for the cathedral music.

³⁶ BD: Franz Xaver Gerl (1764-1827), sang in the Capellhaus and then studied logic and physics at Salzburg University. In 1785 he joined the theatre ensemble ("Hochfürstlich Ansbach-Bayreuth Hofschauspielergesellschaft") led by (Karl) Ludwig Schmidt. In 1787 he joined Emmanuel Schikaneder's ensemble as senior, actor and composer. He sang *Sarastro* in the première of *The Magic Flute*. Mozart wrote KV 612 for him and the double-bass player Friedrich Pischlberger. He sang in the rehearsal of the Requiem held by Mozart's sickbed.

³⁷ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not employed in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Fürst Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna. Cf. No. 0887/117.

³⁸ Leopold's customary form of address for his son-in-law.

Two days ago, Herr Reitter, who commends himself, came walking with me for 3 hours.

[160] I have received the 2 fans from the Hagenauers' Tresel.⁴⁰ But since one of them is too long for its box, I will send both of them at a convenient opportunity, otherwise they might be broken. I would have sent the fleabane right away, but now it seems to me that it should not be taken until the time comes again. In short! I will speak with *Dr.* Joseph, [165] and also with *Prex*⁴¹ when he comes to us again or when I see him. Although you have received your ordinary post,⁴² you may still be pregnant, which has often happened, as with Frau Hagenauer. Therefore, if the pressure and the hot flushes do not diminish, one should simply let a small amount of blood from the arm, which cannot harm you, so that one can see clearly that it comes from the blood. – – [170] Little Leopoldl, praise God, is well. Nandl⁴³ and Tresel⁴⁴ commend themselves. Now he will be given a little winter coat that I am having made for him; the one you sent, because it is beautiful, should be kept for making a fine *display* in spring if God lets him live. There is also little pair of shoes of red cloth being made for him.

[175] On the morning of the 5th Nov.

Herr Franz *Agliardi*⁴⁵ is here with his wife,⁴⁶ perhaps for a change of air, or for some diversion etc. It is astonishing how one has to beg for wood. One farmer promised to bring us 15 cords more cheaply if I take it all bit by bit. [180] Now another farmer has bought it off him at his home to make a profit on it.

³⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁴⁰ BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer (1740-1820), the eldest daughter of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

⁴¹ BD: Dr. med. Johann Nepomuk Prex (1733-1809), Landschaftsphysicus [= "Physician to the Parliament of the Estates"]. The Mozarts encountered him in Paris in 1766. In 1778 he offered Wolfgang his "fine nag" if he should return to Salzburg.

⁴² Cf. line 114.

⁴³ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

⁴⁴ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁴⁵ BD: Franz August Blasius Agliardi(s) (1749-1824), son of the Prince-Archbishop's personal physician Dr. Peter Anton Agliardi(s). He pursued a career in state administration, finally becoming chief administrator [Pfleger] of Teisendorf in 1787.

⁴⁶ BD: In 1785 Agliardi married Maria Anna Aloisia Kurz von Goldenstein (1760-1799).